

M O T I O N

There are many older concrete buildings in Los Angeles which appear to not have been retrofitted to withstand a major earthquake.

While hundreds of state bridges and freeway overpasses have been replaced or retrofitted and public and private universities have voluntarily overhauled concrete buildings, many of our older concrete buildings have not been retrofitted.

Previous retrofitting efforts in Los Angeles have saved lives. A 1981 ordinance requiring retrofitting of 8,000 brick buildings gave positive results: although 60 people died in the Northridge quake, none were in brick structures.

Some experts have said that about 30% of older concrete buildings require major work. Others believe the number is much higher. Researchers who study how concrete buildings fare in earthquakes say 5% of these structures typically collapse. In Los Angeles, that would be at least 50 buildings.

However retrofitting our concrete buildings has been an elusive goal. To determine whether a building needs retrofitting, owners would have to spend as much as \$100,000 on a structural study. Retrofitting could require installation angled steel beams to provide more support, like an external skeleton. Another solution could be the addition of sturdy interior concrete walls that stretch from the ground to the roof. Such measures could cost a building owner \$1 million or more; and occupants probably would have to move out during the renovation, at an additional cost.

The City needs to review the status of our concrete buildings and implement a comprehensive solution.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Public Works be requested instruct its bureaus to work with the City Attorney to gather data on older concrete buildings which require retrofitting and identify via City records the accuracy of such data and report with recommendations and necessary ordinances to address both safety and City liability issues.

PRESENTED BY: _____

BERNARD C. PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY: _____

CLA MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilman Bernard Parks

FROM: Gerry F. Miller
Chief Legislative Analyst

Assignment No.

Retrofitting Concrete Buildings

You asked us to prepare the attached Motion that the Board of Public Works be requested instruct its bureaus to work with the City Attorney to gather data on older concrete buildings which require retrofitting and identify via City records the accuracy of such data and report with recommendations and necessary ordinances to address both safety and City liability issues.

If we may be of further assistance please let us know.

Avak Keotahian
Analyst

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